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THE

INTERIM

A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

DECEMBER 1979

VOL. II, NO. 7

TAX TIME
COMING AGAIN

By January 31, 1980, W-2 forms will be mailed to all legislators. The W-2 earnings reflect salary paid during the legislative session. Also, IRS Form 1099 for miscellaneous income will be included. Form 1099 will report salary paid for all permanent legislative agency work on the Audit Committee, Legislative Council, Finance Committee, EQC, and Consumer Counsel, as well as the interim study committees and any other non-session salary paid during the current tax year.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MET
DECEMBER 8

The Legislative Council met on December 8. The Council:

(1) Heard a presentation by Karl T. Kurtz, Director of Operations for NCSL, concerning assistance available to Montana that does not involve travel or other expense.

ERROR IN
CODE INDEX

(2) Voted to request Data Retrieval Corporation of America to reprint the brand new Montana Code Annotated index volume printed with no listing under "T" because of a programming error made by the corporation. (Council staff reported an average of 15 telephone calls a day concerning the missing T's.)

COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATION
TO BE STUDIED

(3) Voted to contract with CSG's Interstate Consulting Clearinghouse CSG for a study of the Council's internal organization and administrative operations.

TRAVEL CLAIMS

(4) Voted to return each incomplete or apparently erroneous travel claim submitted by a legislator. The Council instructed Council accounting staff not to complete such a claim and not to process it until it is completed by the legislator.

NEW MEMBER
ON ENERGY
FORECASTING

The Legislative Council appointed Representative Kenneth Nordtvedt to the Energy Forecasting Committee to replace Representative Carl Seifert.

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INTERIM



THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLIMATE ENGINEERS

INTERIM COMMITTEES

ANNEXATION

The Study Committee on Annexation will hold its third meeting on Friday, January 11, 1980, in Billings. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Yellowstone Room on the second floor of the Student Union at Eastern Montana College. The committee will further analyze problems with Montana's annexation laws and will receive public comment on several discussion proposals put forward to ease those problems.

BRANCHING OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The Study Committee on the Branching of Financial Institutions held a public hearing on December 8. Representatives of most types of financial institutions involved in the study appeared at the hearing. The committee plans to study optional forms of branching and hear further testimony at a meeting scheduled for April 14.

ENERGY FORECASTING

On November 2 and 3, the Study Committee on Energy Forecasting held an extensive informational hearing on the question of the need for and desirability of establishing an independent state forecasting program. The committee heard testimony from representatives of investor-owned utilities, the oil and coal industries, alternative energy developers, regulatory agencies, and environmental and public interest organizations. Committee members asked their staff to prepare a report analyzing the material discussed during the meeting as well as pertinent federal and state statutes and other relevant background information. The next meeting is planned for early spring.

MEETING WITH BPA ADMINISTRATOR

FOR ALL LEGISLATORS

The Lieutenant Governor's Office has recently informed us that Sterling Munro, Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration, will meet with various state officials on Thursday, December 20, 1979. Mr. Munro would like to meet with any legislators interested in discussing issues involving the provision of electrical energy by BPA to Montana utilities and consumers. As you know, BPA is currently involved in energy forecasting for the Pacific Northwest region's 116 preference customers and four investor-owned utilities. BPA is the source of much information on energy supply and demand conditions in the region, of which western Montana is a part. In addition, Congress is in the process of substantially reorganizing the BPA, and these efforts have been and continue to be of major interest to many Montanans.

Legislators are invited to meet with Sterling Munro on the afternoon of December 20. A definite time has not been scheduled at this point, but we will notify you as soon as more details are available. Interested legislators must come to Helena to meet with Mr. Munro at their own expense -- no travel money is available for this purpose.

CONTAINERS

The final meeting of the Study Committee on Containers was held in Helena on December 1. The Committee adopted a final report which will be available upon request later this month.

REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MEETING NOVEMBER 17

The Revenue Oversight Committee met November 17 in Helena to continue its study of Montana's liquor quota system and its greenbelt law. Members reviewed staff research reports on each topic and began discussing possible legislation. A draft bill concerning the rollback tax will be considered at the Committee's January meeting.

The Committee received progress reports on the Department of Administration's recent sale of tax anticipation notes and several of the Department of Revenue's programs. The Committee also reviewed the details of several pending legal cases concerning the Department. In particular, members discussed the problems surrounding the Department of Revenue's 1978 reappraisal of commercial property, the State Tax Appeal Board's subsequent lowering of the values of some of this property by 34%, and the many suits on the matter now pending. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

That because of the importance of the issue of the valuation of commercial property, the number of people affected by the problem, and the complication of the problem with regard to 1979 and future years, we urge a speedy resolution of this matter so that all parties know what the tax is.

The Committee will meet again on January 12 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 104, State Capitol, Helena.

COAL TAX OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING NOVEMBER 16

The Subcommittee met November 16 in Helena to receive progress reports on two programs funded by the coal severance tax: the Renewable Resources Development Program and the Alternative Energy Program. DNRC staff

also reported on projects funded from the Resource Indemnity Trust Interest Fund.

The Subcommittee will meet in Billings in late January to discuss these programs and the local impact program.

CAPITOL
BUILDING
& PLANNING

The Capitol Building and Planning Committee will hold its second meeting on January 9 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 139 of the Capitol. The meeting will be a working session for the Committee and will include a tour of the Capitol.

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING

The Legislative Finance Committee met in Helena, December 7 and 8.

UNIVERSITY
FUNDING
STUDY

The committee discussed a staff report which presented summaries of campus interviews and funding formulas in other states. The committee directed the staff to address funding by level, discipline, and fixed costs in developing alternatives to present funding procedures.

MSU NURSING
ISSUE

The legislative delegation from Butte expressed its concern to the committee about the proposed closing of the MSU nursing program at Butte. President Tietz also addressed the issue.

PRISON
POPULATION

The State Budget Director requested the committee to advise him whether the halfway house project in Billings should proceed. It was the committee's opinion that, since the prison population had not grown since the legislative session, the project should be delayed at least until the expected growth is realized.

JUNIOR
ANALYST
ARRIVES

John and Carol LaFaver welcomed their new son, Jeremy John, on October 14.

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

MEETING

The Legislative Audit Committee met December 7, 1979 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 413-415 of the State Capitol.

REPORTS TO
BE ISSUED

The committee received, reviewed, and filed the following financial/compliance audit reports: Department of Business Regulation*; Department of Professional and Occupational Licensing*; Department of Community Affairs*; and Department of Administration, Treasury Division*. (*Audits conducted by Certified Public Accountant firms.)

SUNSET The committee held the public hearing on the Board of Nursing sunset audit report.

NEXT
MEETING The next meeting of the Legislative Audit Committee was scheduled for January 21, 1980.

REPORTS
AVAILABLE Copies of all reports are available from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Room 135, State Capitol.
Telephone: 449-3122.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

MEETING The Environmental Quality Council held its regularly
NOVEMBER 6-8 scheduled meeting November 6, 7, and 8, in Malta and Glasgow.

The Council and staff also toured several facilities in the area, including the Air Force Base in Glasgow; the proposed re-regulation site at Fort Peck; the Circle-West coal project; the Federal Bentonite facility in Glasgow; and the American Colloid plant in Malta.

The EQC staff is now outlining the draft for the Coordination of Permit Procedures Act (HJR 60). Legislators are encouraged to refer to the working paper sent earlier and send any input to the EQC office as soon as possible.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held during the latter part of January.

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

MONTH DECEMBER

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

[illegible]



LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

MONTH JANUARY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Capitol Building and Planning Rm. 139 1 p.m.-4 p.m.	10	11	12 Revenue Oversight Rm. 104 9:30 a.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 State Mandates Rm. 104
20	21 Legislative Audit Comm. Rm. 104 9:00 a.m.	22	23	24	25 Environmental Quality Council TENTATIVE	26
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